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REV. J. McLEOD.]

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[EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.]

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## The Intelligencer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON XII—March 23.

(For Questions See Star Quarterly and Lesson Papers.)

CHRISTIAN DILIGENCE.

SCRIPTURE LESSON, 2 THESS. 3: 1-18.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Christian diligence. 2 Thess. 3: 1-18.

T. Prayer for deliverance. Ps. 71: 1-14.

W. Confidence in Christ. Phil. 1: 3-11.

T. Faithful discipline. Rom. 16: 17-1 Cor. 5: 1-13.

F. Diligent workers. Rom. 12: 6-21.

S. Practical piety. James 1: 19-27.

S. Christian progress. 1 Peter 1: 6-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Be not weary in well-doing.—2 Thess. 3: 13.

TOPICS.—The Lord's faithfulness.

Disorderly persons.

Steadfastness in work.

TIME, A. D. 53.

NOTES AND HINTS.

Connecting Link.—This lesson is taken from

the second letter written by Paul to the The-

ssalonians. It was written at Corinth not many

months after the first epistle. It is believed

by some that a forged letter was sent to the

Thessalonians, purporting to be from Paul himself,

teaching that the "day of the Lord" was near at

hand, and producing great excitement among them.

It was, in part, to reassure them that the second

letter was written.

I. The Lord's faithfulness. It is worthy of

note that the apostle asks his brethren at The-

ssalonica to pray for him, not that he might be happy

or especially prosperous in any private and

purely personal matters, nor, even, that he may

be in good health, and escape persecutions and

difficulties, but, rather, that the Word of the

Lord may be unhindered, in its progress and

be glorified. This is the first desire of every

true-hearted Christian minister, and, indeed, of

every disciple of Christ. As a secondary matter,

he desires to be delivered from wicked and un-

reasonable men, which was certainly proper

enough. Whatever men may be or do, the

Lord is faithful. What he has promised he

will perform, without abatement. It may not

always be at just the time when we most expect

and desire it; it may not be in just the way

that we have supposed it would be, but in his

own good time, and in the way that he sees to

be the best for us, he will surely fulfill all his

promises. He will keep his covenant. He will

establish his people upon a firm foundation,

whereon they may rest in security and "dwell

quiet from the fear of evil."

II. Disorderly persons. In many a Chris-

tian community some have been found who

would not behave as the disciples of Christ ought

to behave. In one way or another they would

transgress the laws of propriety and religion,

show disrespect to the hearts of the brethren,

shame to themselves, and reproach upon the

cause of Christ. "Disorderly walkers" have

been the plague of the church from Paul's day

to this. He gives counsel in regard to the

treatment of such persons which is good for us,

because we are to be like them, and have been

commended by him. Withdraw from such; that is,

as we understand it, do not continue to associate

with them on terms of intimate fellowship, lest by

so doing they may be seen to be upheld and ap-

proved in their conduct. The particular fault, or sin,

of this class of persons at Thessalonica, seems to

have been idleness, and a propensity to gossip and

talentage.—This Paul privately rebuked and com-

mended such persons to go to work, earn their

own living and mind their own business. Un-

happily for the church and the world, this class

of persons is not yet extinct. They constitute

a disreputable brotherhood of religious loafers

who gather about places where meetings are

held, especially when some interest more than

usual is manifested among the unconverted.

Under the guise of helping in a good work they

actually live for their living for week or two,

and then move on to "pastures new." Such

should be effectually suppressed and taught the

meaning of the apostle's injunction, that "if any

would not work neither should they eat." These

persons are very likely to become busy-bodies,

meddling in the affairs of others, retailers of

petty gossip, and scandal-mongers in a general

way, and so become sowers of the seeds of dis-

cord and disturbers of the peace. The church

should promptly enforce strict discipline upon

such, and so far as it can, prevent the mischief

which they are sure to make if left to go on un-

restrained.

III. Steadfastness in work. As in other

kinds of work, so in Christian work; success

depends not so much upon the apparent activity

of the worker, as upon the steadfast continuance

in the work. Steady, regular, faithful work

will stick to, accomplish wonderful results

in the long run. Steady day-by-day follow-

ing, and inactivity to-morrow, is not likely to amount

to much, but a constant current, flowing alike in all

seasons and all weathers, will wear for itself a

channel in the hardest rock. Our bodies may get

tired in Christian work, but our hearts should

never grow weary of it. Steady and patiently

should we toil on, looking to Jesus, the finisher

of our faith, and trusting that he who has said,

"Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end,"

will accept our services, humble though they

may be, and so graciously add his blessing that

they may be helpful to some weary, way-worn

traveller seeking an entrance into the kingdom

of rest and peace at God's right hand.

THOUGHTS AND APPLICATIONS.

I. None need the prayers of Christians more

than they who preach the Gospel.

II. Blessed are they who acquire the spirit

of patient endurance manifested by Jesus

Christ.

III. Church discipline should be adminis-

tered firmly, but in the spirit of love.

TOPICS FOR FURTHER STUDY.

I. The ground of confidence in Christians.

II. The duty of diligence in business.

BRIDLING THE TONGUE.

BY HARRY HOWARD.

Another beautiful Sabbath day had come,

bringing with many sweet rest and quiet.

But at the little of the day had begun just as

any other Sunday had the past year—a late

breakfast, no time for prayers, hurried prepara-

tions for church, with the usual amount of fault-

finding and sour looks.

Poor Mrs. Little looked just about as

discouraged as a woman could look; her face

bore a sort of helpless, don't-care expression.

Here was John, the man who had sworn to love

and protect her, and who could not find

words sweet enough to suit him,—fretting and

fuming over the loss of one poor little button

that could not stand the pulling of the nervous

fingers, and had snapped away into a corner.

Where still, his collar wouldn't set right and

that followed the button, he exclaimed, "I do

wish Martha Ann (Mattie was the old name)

you could do things like that girl did, and

never bothered me so when mother ironed them,

and the buttons wasn't forever coming off."

"I would please me greatly to have you look over

my clothes once in a while. I should like to

know how much a man is expected to bear."

Then came an angry reply, accompanied by tears,

as Martha Ann selected another collar from the

shining array in the drawer.

After she had the children were scolded into

their clothes, and the family started for church,

with long faces and unhappy thoughts. They

sat through the singing of the old familiar

hymns, and the earnest prayer, unmoved, a stran-